

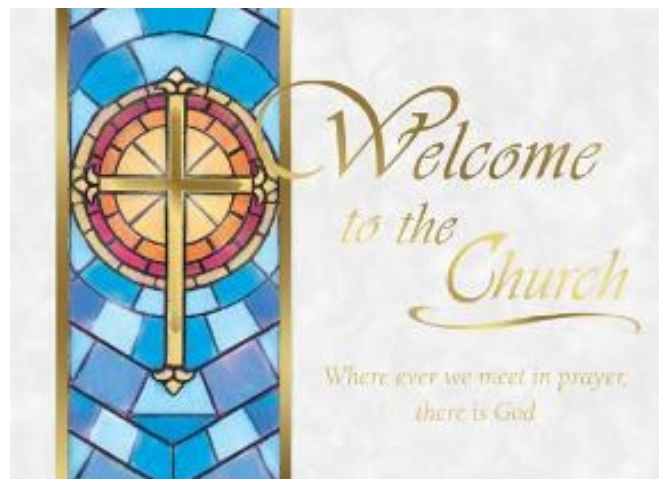


MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF THE
PARISH CHURCH OF
St MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS, RUNCORN.
www.runcornstmichaels.org.uk

ISSUE 193

JUNE 2026

GROWING Together



In GROWING TOGETHER THIS MONTH:
HUMOUR NEWS

PUZZLE PAGE

SERVICES FOR JUNE/ JULY
CELEBRATIONS

Who is Jesus Christ to You?



So my friends, I write this message in reflection of the sermon that I've just preached on the previous Sunday, where I highlighted, in the latter part of the Sermon, that my calling above all else is to be completely obedient to Jesus Christ his teachings and his example.

You've heard me say this a number of times, and it is something that will continuously come out of my mouth until my very final breath, that there is no other name above all names, and that Jesus Christ is Lord. Part of recognising that Jesus is Lord and testifying to his name, is also being obedient to his teachings his mission and his work. This, in today's day and age is a challenge, and is a challenge that I feel is probably more so now than it has been in previous years, and is one that we absolutely have to rise up to as the people of God.

The world we live in at the moment is heavily fractured and it seems to be fracturing more and more on a regular basis, as political parties clash with other political parties, as countries fight other countries, and as the very social fabric of our own country here appears to be under severe strain. Quite often it is easy to struggle to live a life obedient to Jesus, let alone speak about him. Especially in a world where religion or spirituality is now a very accessible pick and mix in the local community or online. All of these places and other influences will try and point you away from Jesus Christ or in some ways make you question your own journey with him. In the challenges we face, my strongest advice to you is to take regular time to stop to think and to reflect upon what anchors you to Jesus, then to hold that obediently and deeply within your own heart and mind and do not move away from that under any circumstances.

I'm going to share with you for a moment the anchoring message of who Jesus Christ is to me, and what part of the gospel message I want the world to know. This is where I find my strength, this is where I find my faith when the world gets messy and things get tough.

Jesus to me is Divine Mercy. He is the absolute shining example of loving God who forgives, who guides, heals, and is a God for whom no amount of brokenness can cause separation from his heart. This Divine Mercy, or this message of Divine Mercy, to me radiates through the gospels from examples such as the woman at the well to the temple guard whose ear Saint Peter struck off in the garden of Gethsemane. In these two examples specifically, Jesus looks beyond the brokenness of the of the woman and also the sinfulness on the anger of Peter's actions.

This reflection on Jesus being Divine Mercy also gives me a great deal of comfort in knowing that no matter how my life turns out I know, no matter my own personal human brokenness, I have a God of love and mercy who wants nothing but the best for me, and will forgive me just as much as he forgave Peter with his sword.

To others, perhaps the thing that stands out for you most about Jesus is something else? Perhaps it is his teachings on the Kingdom of heaven, perhaps you are reading this as someone who has been the prodigal son?

Whatever the part of Jesus' teachings that stand out to you most, I want to encourage you to reflect upon these and hold them close on your discipleship journey through life. Jesus Christ is the most powerful example of God's presence here on earth. He was born for you in the form of a baby, he lived for you through the example of a servant, and he died for you as a complete sacrifice

So my question to you is this... who is Jesus Christ to you and how do you carry him on your own discipleship Journey?

with every blessing,

Rev'd George

JUNE CHURCH SERVICES

Wednesday 3rd June
10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 7th June (1st Sunday after Trinity)
8.30am Holy Communion
10.30am Café Church

Wednesday 10th June
10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 14th June (2nd Sunday after Trinity)
8.30am Holy Communion
10.30am Holy Communion

Wednesday 17th June
10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 21st June (3rd Sunday after Trinity)
8.30am Holy Communion
10.30am Holy Communion

Wednesday 24th June
10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 28th June (4th Sunday after Trinity)
8.30am Holy Communion
10.30am Holy Communion



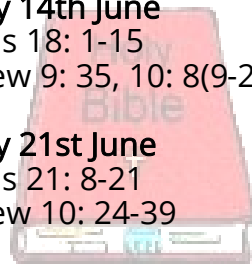
BIBLE READINGS FOR JUNE

Sunday 7th June
Genesis 12: 1-9
Matthew 9: 9-13, 18-26

Sunday 14th June
Genesis 18: 1-15
Matthew 9: 35, 10: 8(9-23)

Sunday 21st June
Genesis 21: 8-21
Matthew 10: 24-39

Sunday 28th June
Genesis 22: 1-14
Matthew 10: 40-end



In May we recently welcomed **Three children** into the Church Family through Baptism. Please pray for these children that they may grow up to love and follow Christ. Also please pray for their parents and godparents, and pray that they may seek to know Christ and to worship.

Prayer for June 2026

Father, Here we are in June – a beautiful month and a month when we remember a beautiful follower of Yours, Barnabas. He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith and he encouraged Your people to remain true to You in what must have been dangerous times. Lord, in these dangerous days, when so much seems alien and out of control, how we all need to be encouraged to be steadfast in our faith and in our lives. How we need to remember that You are our faithful, sovereign Lord; that You never change; that in Jesus You have won the victory over sin and death. If we put our trust in Jesus, we are secure for all eternity. Thank You for the example of Barnabas. Help us to be encouraged and to encourage others. May we enjoy June in all its beauty, knowing that nothing can separate us from You.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

JULY CHURCH SERVICES

Wednesday 1st July
10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 5th July (5th Sunday after Trinity)
8.30am Holy Communion
10.30am Café Church

Wednesday 8th July
10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 12th July (6th Sunday after Trinity)
8.30am Holy Communion
10.30am Holy Communion

Wednesday 15th July
10.00am Holy Communion



Sunday 19th July (7th Sunday after Trinity)
8.30am Holy Communion
10.30am Holy Communion

Wednesday 22nd July
10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 26th July (8th Sunday after Trinity)
8.30am Holy Communion
10.30am Holy Communion

Wednesday 29th July
10.00am Holy Communion

St Michael's Maintenance Appeal Committee

Upcoming Events for your diary

June 26th: Organ Recital Tickets £10 (inc light refreshments) @ 7.00pm

July 18th: Summer Fayre 12.00noon to 4.00pm

September 26th: Farmhouse Supper Tickets £15 (inc Hot & Cold Buffet and 'Kiwi Chorus')
6.30pm to start at 7.00pm

December 6th: Police Band Concert Tickets £12 (inc Mulled wine and mince pie) @ 5.00pm

December 9th—12th: Christmas Tree Festival and Grand Draw

Watch this space for more upcoming events

CONGRATULATIONS

to
Chris & Sue Challoner
who are celebrating their
Wedding Anniversary
on
6th June

to
Matt & Claire Roth
who are celebrating their
Wedding Anniversary
on
8th June



to
Colin & Angela Keam
who are celebrating their
Wedding Anniversary
on
11th June



We trust not because 'a god' exists, but because THIS God exists. – C S Lewis

Activities at St Michael's Church

St Michael's Maintenance Appeal Committee

Tea & Toast in the Church Hall

Next Tea & Toast is on 4th July & 1st August

@ 10.00am to 12.00 noon Admission: £2.00

Community Community Café

In the Church Hall every Wednesday from 11.30pm—2.30pm.

A place to relax, have a natter, try some crafts and of course a cup Tea or Coffee.

Knit and Natter Group

Knit & Natter Group meets in the Church Hall every Tuesday from 10.00am to 12noon.

Everyone welcome, especially newcomers.



VML

Sing-along sessions on Tuesday nights @ 7.00pm in the Church Hall. So come along have a cuppa and a sing-along for just £2.



Perhaps he's heard that we're losing our churchwarden

Best and worst breakfasts for your cholesterol

Numerous studies suggest that if you miss breakfast, you can risk elevated cholesterol levels. On the other hand, eating breakfast each morning can help improve your cardiovascular health. But what is the best sort of thing to eat at breakfast? Healthy fat and fibre will help you avoid excessive peaks and dips in glucose, and they can also set up your metabolism for the rest of the day.

So –

Cereal: Avoid sugary cereals, as highly refined cereals contain little fibre, and high sugar content can cause insulin resistance, and promote an unhealthy lipid profile. Choose porridge instead.

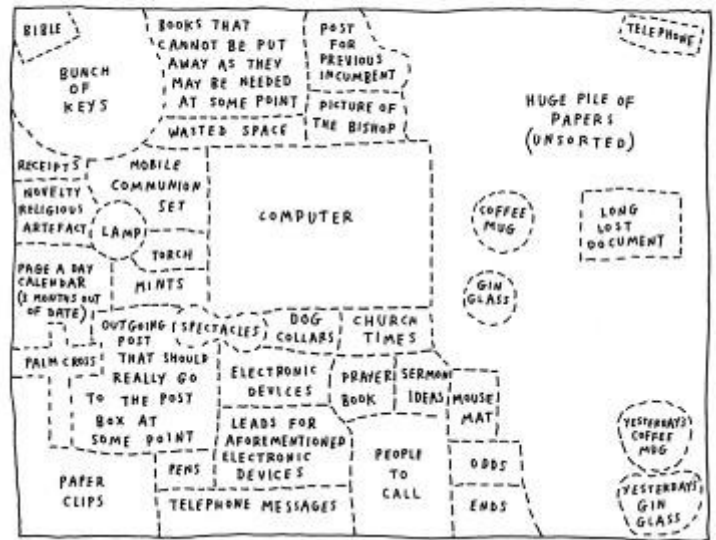
Toast toppings: Avoid bacon, which is high in saturated fat and sodium. Choose smoked salmon or smashed avocado.

Eggs: Avoid the Full English, which is high in saturated fats. Choose an omelette with healthy fillings such as mushrooms and tomatoes.

Bread: Avoid the refined flour in white bread, croissants and pastries. Choose higher fibre varieties of bread.

THE CLERGY DESK

THE TRIED AND TESTED WAY TO ARRANGE IT



Celebrating Fathers

'If you want to know how well a person understands Christianity, find out how much they make of the thought of being God's child and having God as their Father.' (J I Packer, *Knowing God*)

This month we celebrate the importance of fathers on Father's Day. Unlike Mothering Sunday, this doesn't have a distinctly Christian origin. However, it does provide an opportunity to celebrate God's Fatherhood and what it means for us. At His baptism, when Jesus came out of the water: *'heaven was opened, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on Him. And a voice from heaven said, This is my Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased.'* (Matthew 3:16,17). What do we learn about Jesus' relationship with His Father, our relationship with God and the role of fathers?

The Father's presence

When Jesus was baptised, the Father was present in the Holy Spirit. It's the Spirit who enables us to address God as daddy ('*abba*', Galatians 4:6) in an intimate way. God is present with us and understands our joys and sorrows, fears and trials. Dads should relate to their children like this.

The Father's love

The Father described His Son as '*beloved*'; like us, Jesus was the subject of God's unconditional love. Dads should assure their children of their constant, undeserved love.

The Father's pleasure

The Father tells Jesus that He is '*well pleased*' with Him, as He embarked on His public ministry. We need to hear this as well, especially when we feel that we are disappointing God or letting Him down. We should also be aware of the effect of our words spoken to our children. Dads should be using every opportunity to demonstrate their pleasure in their children, especially when things go wrong.



We must lay it down as an elemental principle of religion that no large growth in holiness was ever gained by one who did not take time to be often alone with God. – *Austin Phelps*

What's the Big Idea? - an Introduction to the Books of the Bible: Colossians

This month we return to look at the books of the New Testament. Many today are asking: *'How does Jesus uniquely reveal God to us?'* This question lies at the heart of Paul's letter to the Colossians. The church in Colossae was a fruit of his three years ministry in Ephesus (52-55 AD). Paul went on to write this letter while in a Roman prison around 61 AD.

Paul was dealing with gnostic false teachers who denied that Jesus was fully God and man. They taught that enlightenment could be reached through special knowledge and rigorous self-discipline.

Paul attacked this false teaching by focusing on the supremacy of Christ: *'in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have this fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority'* (2:9-10).

He affirms that Jesus is:

Lord of all Creation, who sustains everything. As the exact representation of God, He is first-born over all creation (1:15-17) and there is no place for worshipping angels or any other power (2:18). Head of the Church (1:18), to whom the Colossians should submit (2:6, 7) and not be seduced by vain speculations (1:16-18).

Supreme Saviour (3:11), who has defeated all spiritual powers on the cross (2:15), allowing them to share in the power of His resurrection (2:20). All are adopted into His family and so there are no special qualifications needed to experience God's favour (2:8-20).

In chapters 3&4 Paul demonstrates the practical implications for the Christian's daily life. We are challenged to abandon the old life and cultivate our new life in Christ (3:5-4:6). If we maintain Jesus as our Lord, He will prove truly sufficient for all our needs.

Christian Giving

Stewardship's recent *Generosity Report* explored 'Christian giving in the UK' and is based on **6,000 churchgoers**, 1,700 of whom attend church weekly, 1,200 who go monthly and 3,100 who attend less frequently.

On average, these Christians gave **£124 a month** to different charitable causes, made up of **£98** to their church and **£26** to other charities. The more committed Christians, who attend their church and reading the Bible at least weekly, tend to give more than others. They give to Christian charities, then secular charities and finally individual Christian workers.

Why give? "Gratitude for the blessings God has given me (home, finance, family etc.)" is the reason about a third of them give. This is followed by "gratitude for what Jesus did for me on the Cross" (30%) and being "part of something that can make a difference" (29%). How do Christians feel about their giving? The answer: "Responsibility and joy," is closely followed by "gratitude" for their church giving. Christians mostly kept quiet about their giving, not even discussing it with friends. Supporting those in need was a prime reason for giving (say sponsoring running a marathon), whether to family or friends or homeless strangers on the streets. The faith affiliation of charities was less important – it was what they were doing which counted.

Committed Christians usually support two charities.

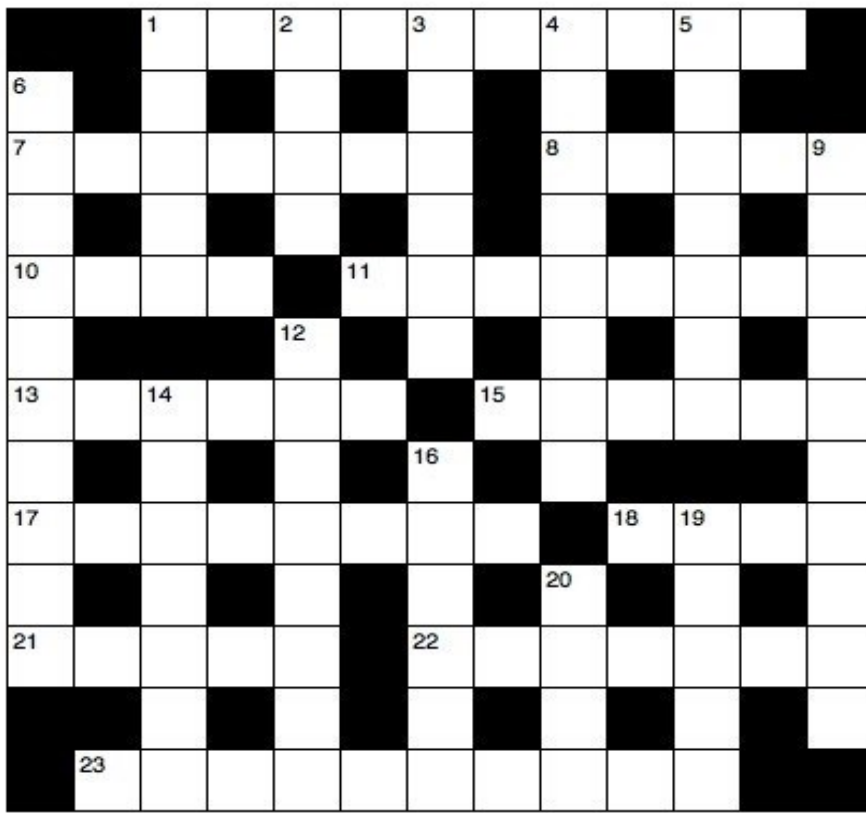


CAFÉ CHURCH

On Sunday 3rd May, at our Café Church service we had a visitor to the service, it was Fr Kevin Crinks and his dog Brian, who is a Honorary Cathedral Chaplain. He gave a very interesting talk to the congregation about the early life of St Francis of Assisi, and what he did, like living like a beggar. Fr Kevin told us how the Franciscan Order came to be when Francis went to see the Pope to get the order recognised, which the Pope did after he had a dream in which he saw Francis holding up the Lateran Basilica. It was a very interesting talk and the congregation enjoyed listening to Fr Kevin talking about himself and Francis of Assisi.



"Well, no, I'm not dressing like this to create common ground with today's youth culture – I've always worn a hoody."



CROSSWORD CHALLENGE

See how you get on with this crossword. There is no prize, but whoever gets it back to the Editor by June 22nd will be entered on a Roll of Honour in the next edition of *Growing Together*.

Across

- 1 Evil (Genesis 6:5) (10)
- 7 Musician called for by Elisha when he met the kings of Israel, Judah and Edom (2 Kings 3:15) (7)
- 8 The request that led to the institution of the Lord's Prayer: 'Lord, — us to pray' (Luke 11:1) (5)
- 10 'We are hard pressed on every—'(2Corinthians4:8)(4)
- 11 Fraud (2Corinthians6:8)(8)
- 13 'His troops advance in force;they build a siege ramp against me and — around my tent' (Job 19:12) (6)
- 15 Where Rachel hid Laban's household gods when he searched his daughter's tent (Genesis 31:34) (6)
- 17 'Now about spiritual gifts,brothers,I do not want you to be—' (1 Corinthians 12:1) (8)
- 18 Nomadic dwelling(Genesis26:25)(4)
- 21 'As for man,his days are like—,he flourishes like a flower of the field' (Psalm 103:15) (5)
- 22 Or I live (anag.)(7)
- 23 Those guilty of 1 Across(Romans13:4)(10)

Down

- 1 'God so loved the — that he gave his one and only Son' (John 3:16) (5)
- 2 'Away in a manger, no — for a bed' (4)
- 3 Mob ten (anag.) (6)
- 4 'Each — group made its own gods in several towns where they settled' (2 Kings 17:29) (8)
- 5 Began (Luke 9:46) (7)
- 6 Speaking very softly (John 7:32) (10)
- 9 Workers Ruth joined when she arrived in Bethlehem with her mother-in-law Naomi (Ruth 2:3) (10)
- 12 Put in jail(Acts22:19)(8)
- 14 Aceturn(anag.)(7)
- 16 Discharge(Acts21:3)(6)
- 19 'All these—come from inside and make a man "unclean"' (Mark 7:23) (5)
- 20 'Let us rejoice and be glad and — him glory!(Revelation19:7)(4)



Crossword answer
May

ROLL OF HONOUR

Four people got the crossword answer and they were

- Jim & Shelagh Goffin,
- Wendy Sefton,
- Margaret Myers
- &
- Chris & Sue Challoner



June
2026

INFORMATION

Revd George Roach
01928 832734

Email: vicar.smaaruncorn@gmail.com
Not on a Monday

Churchwardens

Robbie Littler 07718 133018
Emma Johnson

Also if there is a Safeguarding
issue please email
Duncan Prince on
safeguardingsmaa@gmail.com



If you want to book
a wedding, baptism or funeral
please phone this number 07718 133018
and ask for Robbie

Or can go to our website:
www.runcornstmichaels.com



Please Pray

Please remember the following people in your
prayers
throughout this month.

Graham & Nicola Aylett

Barbara Done

Helen Browne

Also please remember in your prayers
anyone that you know
who are housebound or in hospital.

If you would like us to pray for someone close
to you then let the Pastoral Care Team or vicar
know.

....and the recently bereaved, especially any
families known to you

The Seven Deadly Sins: Lust

'Lust is the craving for salt by a man who is dying of thirst' (Frederick Beucher).

This month's Deadly Sin is *lust*. It is usually understood as an intense desire for sexual pleasure, but can include other things eg food, success or fame. Objectifying a person for our own selfish pleasure can leave us feeling guilty, ashamed or disappointed. Our relationship with God is spoilt, as we create an area of life which is not under God's authority. As Jesus says: *'You have heard that it was said, "You shall not commit adultery." But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.'* (Matthew 5:27,28).

How can we deal with lust in our lives?

Confess it to God: *'If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.'* (1 John 1:9). Lust feeds on secrecy, yet God already knows our thoughts and desires. Focus on Jesus, who loves and accepts us for who we are. Confess our desires to Him, knowing that He wants to cleanse us of our sin.

Renew your Mind: *'Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - His good, pleasing and perfect will.'* (Romans 12:2). Overcoming lust requires an understanding of our thinking. We need to acknowledge when lust affects us, understand the triggers for our thoughts (circumstances, time) and address them by asking for God's strength to overcome them.

'Lust is a poor, weak, whispering thing compared with that richness and energy of desire which will arise when lust has been killed.' (CS Lewis).

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS



June Birthdays

Congratulations to June Betton who celebrates her birthday on June 12th, to Charlotte Freeman who celebrates her birthday on 14th June and to Olga Gregory who celebrates her birthday on June 27th.